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ANNUAL REPORT

Upon the HEALTH of BLACKBURN for the year 1943

indexed by
L.B.A.H.

By

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Administrative Tuberculosis Officer,
Medical Superintendent of the Corporation Isolation Hospitals
and Municipal Maternity Home,
School Medical Officer.
=====

Public Health Department,
Victoria Street,
BLACKBURN.

August, 1944.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the Health of the Borough for the year 1943, which, like its war-time predecessors has been confined to essentials.

I take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Health, Maternity & Child Welfare, and Blind Persons Act Committees for their courtesy and encouragement. At the same time I wish to express my deep appreciation of the willing and cheerful manner in which members of the Health Department staff have accepted the additional responsibilities placed upon them by staff shortage, together with the calls of Civil Defence. To them and to you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen, I am greatly indebted for unfailing support.

Your obedient Servant,

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VITAL STATISTICS.

	1943
Area (in acres)	8080
Rateable Value	£745543
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£2889
Rate in £ (Excluding Water) 1943-44	14/6d +
Gross Expenditure on Health Services	£84897 +
Income on Health Social Services	£45510 *
Net Expenditure on Health Social Services	£39387

+ Subject to 2½% discount for early payment

* This sum does not include any money received through the Block Grant.

Birth-Rate	15.2
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Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, child birth, from:-

Sepsis	0)	0.00) per 1000 births and
Other causes	2)	1.22) stillbirths.

Still Births	53
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Rate per 1000 total births	33.5
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Death-rate	15.9
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Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1000 live births:-

Legitimate	52.9
Illegitimate	149.4
All Infants	58.1

Death-rate from Measles (all ages)	0.009
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" " " Whooping Cough (all ages)	0.009
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" " " Diarrhoea (under two years of age) (per 1000 births)	6.32
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" " " Cancer (all ages)	2.21
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VITAL STATISTICS DURING 1943.

Wards	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Deaths under one year per 1000 Births.	Death-rate from six Zymotic Diseases excluding Diarrhoea.	Death rate from Diarrhoea.	Death-rate from Bronchitis and Pneumonia.	Death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Death-rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
St. Stephen's	18.8	13.8	57	0.00	1 0.08	28 2.51	0.53	0.00
Trinity	13.3	18.4	55	0.00	1 0.14	22 3.25	0.59	0.00
St. Michael's	15.1	17.5	72	0.00	1 0.13	23 3.17	0.13	0.13
St. John's	14.5	17.4	25	1 0.18	1 0.18	20 3.63	0.18	0.00
St. Silas'	13.2	18.7	49	0.00	1 0.13	19 2.47	0.25	0.00
St. Paul's	16.4	16.4	64	0.00	1 0.00	25 3.32	0.66	0.00
St. Peter's	13.1	15.4	116	0.00	1 0.19	20 3.81	0.95	0.00
St. Mary's	12.1	17.2	37	0.00	1 0.23	18 4.14	0.69	0.00
St. Matthew's	13.5	18.2	91	0.00	1 0.00	33 4.56	0.69	0.00
St. Thomas'	12.4	13.2	60	0.00	1 0.10	25 2.63	0.63	0.00
Park	18.4	15.1	21	0.00	1 0.00	21 2.74	0.35	0.35
St. Luke's	15.5	13.4	73	0.00	1 0.16	11 1.77	0.80	0.00
St. Mark's	15.3	15.4	85	1 0.13	1 0.00	21 2.73	0.72	0.11
St. Andrew's	17.7	14.8	31	0.00	1 0.10	19 2.08	0.37	0.11
	15.2	15.9	58	2 0.01	10 0.09	307 2.95	0.50	0.06

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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER. The usual chemical and bacteriological examinations of samples of water have been carried out, and the results on the whole have been good.

HOUSING.

Total number of dwellinghouses inspected 2147

Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 10

Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority. 887

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 199

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By Owners 128
(b) By local authority in default of owners 43

INSANITARY DWELLINGS.

During the year the Ministry confirmed the Clearance Orders in respect of the Moor Street and Derwent Street areas and these properties are in course of demolition and their occupants are rehoused.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 82

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners 94
(b) By local authority in default of owners -

NUISANCES DEALT WITH:

Dwellinghouses	1800	Drains	127
Bakehouses	184	Water Closets	134
Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops	18	Pail Closets	-
Ice Cream Manufacturers	-	Offensive Trades	-
Workshops	36	Common Lodging Houses	20
		Other premises &c.	56

The total number of visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors was 16,538.

At the end of the year action was pending or work actually in progress in respect of premises upon whose owners informal (118) and formal (87) notices had been served.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 25 premises registered for the carrying out of offensive trades.

Six premises registered for bone-dealing and processing are not now used as such owing to the Government's centralisation scheme.

FOOD SUPPLY.MILK.

One hundred and ninety-six samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination, of which 12 were found not to be genuine. In addition 1010 samples were examined for the presence of dirt.

The average composition of samples of milk was 3.67% of fat and 8.77% of other solids.

The Clean Milk Competition again attracted a large number of entries. Samples submitted to bacteriological and chemical examination indicated satisfactory methods of

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production, and visits paid to farm premises proved the care and attention which the farmers are paying to milk production.

OTHER FOODS:

One hundred and eighty-three samples of other foods and drugs were sent for analysis and 18 were found to be adulterated. Appropriate steps were taken in each of the latter cases.

MEAT AND FISH:

(a) Cattle Market

Approximate number of animals exposed for sale:-

5119 Cattle, 9420 Sheep, 5087 Calves, 1478 Pigs.

(b) Public Abattoir.

The number of animals slaughtered was 33,548 and was made up as follows:-

Beasts 4492, Sheep 25710, Calves 2504, Pigs 841, Goats 1.

Eight hundred and forty-three animals showed signs of Tuberculosis, and 122 carcasses were totally rejected. One hundred and sixty-three carcasses were rejected for diseases, &c. other than tuberculosis.

(c) Other Foodstuffs.

The amount of foodstuffs condemned is, in the aggregate, less than in 1942, and, with the exception of certain items included in the appended Table, does not represent a largely increased wastage as compared with 1939.

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1943

Boxes of Fish	54 + 1841 lbs. loose
Various tinned goods	12066
Vegetables and fruit	299 tons 7½ cwt.
Preserved meats, Bacon, etc.	133½ lbs.
Miscellaneous items -	
Cereals &c.	37 cwts.
Offals	58 bags
Custard powder &c.	14 cwts.

(d) Visits.

Four thousand six hundred and forty-one visits were paid to butchers' shops &c. during the year.

FERTILIZERS & FEEDING STUFFS.

Twelve samples were taken, 2 of which did not conform to the Statutory Statement. Appropriate steps were taken in the two latter cases.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year 144 visits were paid to food preparing premises. Generally speaking both the premises and methods employed were found to be satisfactory.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

VACCINATION.

Of the 1707 births registered, 513 children only were successfully vaccinated. The number of exemptions was 1194.

CORPORATION HOSPITAL.

Three hundred and ninety-six cases of infectious disease were removed to Hospital. There were 7 deaths. The average number of hospital patient-days was 30.00, and the average number of beds occupied was 32.55.

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In addition to the above, 101 cases of Tuberculosis were treated of which 22 died. One thousand one hundred and forty-eight specimens were examined at the hospital laboratory.

All cases (81) of Diphtheria notified were removed to Hospital. The case mortality rate was 2.47%. Speaking generally the patients had received adequate antitoxin treatment prior to Hospitalisation.

Scarlet Fever cases were, on the whole, of mild type. Of 317 cases notified, 215 (67%) were removed to hospital. Practically all removals were in respect of persons whose home circumstances did not permit efficient isolation and/or nursing care.

Fourteen cases were admitted as Cerebro-spinal Fever. In 6 cases the diagnosis was confirmed, and of these 4 died. Of the remaining 8 cases the diagnosis proved to be Aseptic Meningitis 2, Pneumococcal Meningitis 1, Streptococcal Meningitis 1, Broncho-Pneumonia 1, Influenza 1, Intra-cranial abscess 1, and Pharyngitis 1.

DYSENTERY.

During the year 66 cases of dysentery were notified, the infecting agent being B. Newcastle (56 cases) and B. Sonne (10 cases). The majority of the cases notified were in respect of children attending the War-Time Nurseries or were ascertained as a result of follow-up of home contacts of infected Nursery children.

There is, without doubt, a large reservoir of Sonne and Newcastle dysentery in the district. The mildness of the disease, however, (which in most cases causes only slight and quickly passing diarrhoea and discomfort) does not, in the opinion of the vast majority of those infected, justify medical attention. For this reason unless the disease occurs in e.g. hospitals or war-time nurseries the majority of cases escape notification.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

CORPORATION HOSPITAL.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Number residing outside of Borough.	Total Deaths.	Number of cases admitted.	Number residing outside of Borough.	Proved to be other diseases.	Total deaths	Deaths of patients residing outside of Borough.
Diphtheria	69	2	-	81	11	24	2	1
Scarlet Fever	317	1	-	215	16	7	-	-
Erysipelas	21	2	-	4	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	2	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	23	5	-	8	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	15	4	-	6	1	-	-	-
Measles	144	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	218	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	147	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	13	1	9	14	4	8	4	-
Other diseases	68	-	-	66	1	5	1	-
Total	1037	26	11	396	33	46	7	1

PREVENTION OF DIPHTHERIA & SCARLET FEVER.

One thousand school children and 1335 pre-school children received Anti-Diphtheria treatment. Alum precipitated toxoid was the prophylactic employed.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Persons inoculated each year from 1934-1943.

Age in years on 31st December of corresponding year.	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943.
1	21	3	18	9	36	3	4	284	543	762
2	29	28	16	4	20	18	6	205	306	187
3	31	13	38	22	56	31	12	296	330	174
4	41	14	76	25	99	34	8	418	382	212
5	60	24	114	53	160	44	2	599	256	215
6	49	25	118	24	140	47	2	583	168	187
7	55	23	67	23	161	44	3	503	127	115
8	49	30	39	18	117	42	2	500	97	128
9	52	18	44	15	109	20	3	550	87	118
10	49	20	27	12	84	27	1	484	73	99
11	49	43	5	17	98	15	1	462	47	58
12	52	80	6	10	53	1	2	536	26	33
13	19	57	1	13	66	1	2	399	20	36
14	13	14	4	5	5	-	-	96	-	11
15 +	20	6	-	-	-	-	-	116	-	-
Total	589	398	573	250	1204	327	48	6031	2462	2335

At the time of writing this Report 44% of the 0-5 age group and 89% of the 5-15 age group have been actively immunised against diphtheria.

GENERAL.

A total of 144 cases of Measles was brought to the notice of the Department by formal notification or otherwise during the year. Although measles serum is not used in the Borough, immune globulin is available for the use of general practitioners and is employed at the Hospital to prevent ward cross-infection.

TUBERCULOSIS.

One hundred and twenty-four cases (99 Pulmonary and 25 non-pulmonary) were notified during the year.

There were 67 (60 pulmonary and 7 non-pulmonary) deaths in 1943.

Medical practitioners referred 287 cases to the Dispensary for examination by the Tuberculosis Officer, who also held 700 consultations with private practitioners. Dispensary attendances numbered 2377; 594 X-ray and 784 Bacteriological examinations were made. One hundred and forty-six Contacts were investigated at the Dispensary. The nurse made 2485 visits to homes of patients.

In-patient arrangements have been fully described in previous reports. The use made of available facilities for pulmonary cases was Meathop 22 cases admitted with 1 death and 22 discharges, and the Corporation Hospital 101 cases (80 discharges, 22 deaths). One new case received treatment at the Robert Jones Hospital. Queen's Park Hospital receives

both pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases, and during the year 8 cases were admitted, and 6 patients were discharged and 6 died.

Reference was made in last year's Report to the proposed merger of the Borough Tuberculosis Scheme with that of the County. The Scheme did not mature in the year 1943, but has become effective since this Report was begun.

Artificial Pneumothorax was induced in 26 cases at the Corporation Hospital, and a total of 450 refills were carried out. Twenty cases had gold therapy, 120 injections being given.

Mr. Briggs conducts regular Orthopaedic Clinics at the Health Department, and advised upon 43 cases of bone and joint tuberculosis, which he treated as necessary. The majority of cases requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Mr. Briggs' beds at Queen's Park and selected cases are sent to the Robert Jones Hospital, Oswestry.

Dental Treatment. Six sessions were held and 10 patients received Dental Treatment. Necessitous cases requiring artificial dentures have been given financial assistance.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Appended are particulars of cases treated under the Council's Scheme during 1943:-

<u>Royal Infirmary.</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
New cases - Venereal	154	97	251
- Non-Venereal	205	187	392
Discharged cured	283	172	455
Ceased to attend	47	44	91
Transferred to other Centres	47	33	80
Attendances			14852
In-patient treatment	14	2	16

<u>Health Department.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
New cases - Venereal	-	29	29
Non-Venereal	-	73	73
Discharged cured	-	87	87
Ceased to attend	-	28	28
Transferred to other Centres	-	2	2
Attendances	-	-	1150
In-patient treatment	-	-	-

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

One hundred and ninety-eight sessions were held, at which 1047 cases made 5292 attendances. There were 108 cases of abnormal labour.

POST-NATAL CLINIC.

Forty-seven sessions were held, and 145 cases made 231 attendances. Ninety-eight cases were abnormal.

MIDWIVES.

Fifty-four midwives notified their intention to practice during the year. Of these 47 remained in practice at the end of the year. Three hundred and twenty-seven medical aid forms were received.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1936.

During the year the Municipal Midwifery Service dealt with 482 midwifery cases and 89 maternity cases. Ante-natal visits and attendances numbered 5105, and there were 8496 visits to midwifery cases and 1699 visits to maternity cases.

SPRINGFIELD NURSING HOME.

Four hundred and ten cases were admitted, and the average duration of stay was 13.5 days. Three hundred and ninety-eight cases were delivered, 299 by the staff and 99 by doctors. There were no maternal deaths. There were 12 stillbirths, and

2 babies died within 10 days.

Fifty-two ante-natal clinic sessions were held and 2465 attendances were made (352 first visits, and 2113 re-attendances). Fifteen cases were admitted for ante-natal treatment.

QUEEN'S PARK HOSPITAL.

One thousand and eighty-seven maternity cases were admitted during the year, and the average duration of stay was 15 days. Nine hundred and ninety-eight cases were delivered, 905 by midwives and 93 by doctors. There were 3 maternal deaths from the following causes:- (1) Acute Myocardial failure due to old Standing Rheumatic Endocarditis, (2) Acute Uraemia due to Cystitis epyonephritis of pregnancy, and (3) Uraemia due to pre-eclamptic toxæmia with pre-existing chronic nephritis.

There were 47 stillbirths, and 26 babies died within 10 days.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Twenty-three cases were notified, 18 of which resided in the Borough. Thirteen cases occurred in institutions. None of the 18 cases died.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

Eleven deaths occurred in the Borough due to or associated with childbirth. Of this number 4 were in respect of Borough residents and were due to pregnancy.

Of the latter four deaths, one was directly due to pregnancy and the remainder are to be classified as "associated with pregnancy."

The death due to pregnancy was certified as being caused

by "Septic Pneumonia, Septic Abortion". Post-mortem examination did not clear up the cause of abortion. This patient attended the Ante-Natal Clinic on two occasions and presented no discerned abnormality. She aborted a day or so subsequent to her second visit. Medical aid was summoned five days after abortion, the patient then being profoundly ill. Transferred to hospital, she died three days later. This death might have been prevented had medical aid been secured at an earlier date.

Of the "associated deaths" two, due to cardiac condition, were probably unpreventable. The third "associated death" (due also to a cardiac condition) might possibly have been prevented had the patient availed herself of arrangements made for her admission to hospital by the Ante-Natal Clinic Medical Officer.

STILLBIRTHS.

Ninety cases of stillbirth were notified, 58 of which were Borough cases and 32 out of the Borough.

NEO-NATAL DEATHS.

Forty-seven infants died within two months of birth.

PREMATURE INFANTS.

There were 53 premature infants born during the year.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

During the year there were 92 deaths of infants under one year of age. This figure gives an infantile mortality rate of 58 per 1000 live births registered.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Fifteen cases were notified during the year. All the cases recovered.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

There were 34,987 attendances and 7210 consultations with doctors.

Expectant mothers made 689 attendances.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

The Dentists held 44 sessions for Maternity cases, at which 115 mothers and 41 children were treated.

HEALTH VISITORS.

The Health Visitors made a total of 25676 visits during the year, and assisted at 1405 clinics.

SUPPLY OF MILK FREE OR AT LESS THAN COST PRICE.

Ninety new cases were dealt with during the year, and there were 35 cases on the books at the end of the year. A total of 38637 lbs. of dried milk was supplied during the period under review.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Thirteen new cases were notified during the year. Two cases removed out of the Borough, and 9 returned to their parents or relatives. Eleven cases remained on the register at the end of the year. All the children are satisfactorily housed and cared for.

NURSING AND MATERNITY HOMES.

No new Nursing or Maternity Homes were opened during the year.

CHILD MINDERS.

The arrangements made, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and National Service, for the registration of women suitable as "child minders" for the care of young children of women engaged on work of national importance, has been continued during the year.

During the year 204 applications were forwarded to the Local branch of the Ministry of Labour and National Service as being suitable for the work after their home environment had been investigated by the Health Visitors. Ninety-nine women were taken off the register, having commenced work or for other reasons, leaving 298 on the register at the end of the year. The number of children nursed by child minders is 230.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

Three Nurseries, (Holden House, St. Alban's Place and Hollymount) were opened during the year, and between them offer accommodation to 42 resident and 47 non-resident children of pre-school age. During the year a total of 34 cases of Dysentery (4 Sonne and 30 Newcastle) type, occurred at the War-Time Nurseries. The type of disease caused by these two organisms, unlike that caused by B. Shiga and B. Flexner, are mild, cause but little discomfort, and, had it not occurred in the War-Time Nurseries, would probably have escaped detection as dysenteric infections. The fact that the Nurseries house children of very tender years prompted the Department to take energetic measures which, of necessity, entailed considerable administrative upheaval and greatly curtailed attendances.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

In April, 1942, the Ambulance Accident Service, previously administered by the Borough Police, was taken over by the Health Department. This service is now manned by Civil Defence personnel.

During the year under review the ambulances dealt with 6590 cases, and travelled 27,613 miles in so doing.

The ambulances were called as follows:-

Medical Practitioners	1055
Police	1077
Others	4458

Analysis of removals:-

Sick	2771
Convalescent	2440
Accidents	1018
Maternity	225
Miscellaneous	356
No. of cases in which First Aid was rendered	826
" " " from outside the Borough	233

The Novox Resuscitator apparatus was used in 4 cases.

